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SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1952.

Medical Officer of Health - NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector - C. E. BEAN, M.S.I.A.,A.R.San.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June 1953.

To the Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Madam & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1952.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 & 1951.

The report shows that the health of the district during the year has remained satisfactory, and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease.

Whilst steady progress continues to be made in connection with the provision of new houses concurrent action is required in connection with substandard property in the District, if a true reduction in the demand for new accommodation is to be obtained. It is hoped that the Housing Survey, at present being carried out, will soon be completed so that you can give this matter the full consideration which it requires.

I am indebted to Mr. Bean, your Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss. P. Goddard, for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Cecil J. Pearson.

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 2.

A. Area - 1,650 acres.
Rateable value - £58,703.
Production of a penny rate - £226.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,070

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.		Comparative figures (a) Sherborne U.D.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	45	43	Rate per 1,000 resident pop; = 12.4	17.1	15.3
Legitimate	43	42			
Illegitimate	2	1			

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	-	2	Rate per 1,000 resident pop; = 0.3	0.3	0.35

DEATHS.

Total	40	39	Rate per 1,000 resident pop; =11.2	10.9	11.3
Deaths in infants under one year	1	-	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 11.4	11.4	27.6

Deaths from Tuberculosis - Nil

Deaths from maternal causes - Nil

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, continued to be provided by the County Council. It has not yet been possible to develop fully the County Council's Domestic Help Service in the district. Otherwise the services provided have been adequate and no further comment with regard to them is considered necessary.

The Public Health Laboratory Services have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

C. Environmental Health Service.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

C.E.Bean, M.S.I.A.,A.R.San.1. Chief Sanitary Inspector.
H. Shepherd, M.S.I.A.,M.R.San I. Part-time - Sanitary Inspector for meat inspection - ceased duties 30.6.52.

L.H.Poole, M.S.I.A.	Temporary part-time Sanitary Inspector for meat inspection - 30.6.52. - 31.10.52.
H.R.C.Strange,M.S.I.A.,M.R.San I.	Additional Sanitary Inspector. Commenced duties 20.12.52.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector also carries out the duties of Water Engineer and Surveyor. A new appointment of additional Sanitary Inspector for meat inspection and general duties was created during the year.

Clerical Staff - 3 clerks (part-time).

2. WATER SUPPLY.

	1950.	1951.	1952.
Rainfall -	35.74 ins.	43.52 ins.	34.49 ins.

The supply has remained adequate in quantity throughout the year. It has been possible to supply Sherborne Rural District Council with 5¾ million gallons of water during the year.

The quality from each source has remained satisfactory.

139 bacteriological and 6 chemical examinations were carried out of the Council's supplies during the year. In addition, daily testing of the supplies for residual chlorine was undertaken. On chemical examination the supplies were found to have a fluorine content of from 0.18 to 0.35 parts per million.

A number of private well supplies are used in the district for industrial purposes. From these supplies 25 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

1,906 houses in the Urban District are provided with a water supply piped into the house. 78 houses obtain their water supply by means of standpipes.

The only new works carried out during the year was the provision of a 6" main in Bristol Road in connection with a new housing estate.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Consultants were engaged during the year to consider proposals to improve the function of the existing sewage disposal works. New works carried out during the year have been limited to the provision of sewers to serve new housing development.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. The Local Authority's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

(b) Salvage. The following amounts of salvage have been collected during the year in conjunction with regular refuse collection:-

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
Paper	62	4	2
Metal	11	13	1
Rags	1	7	3
Total -	75.	5.	2.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. No provision is required to be made in the district.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Several complaints were received regarding oil and gas liquor pollution of the River Yeo. Action was taken in each case.

The Somerset River Board, in the course of their duties under the River Board's Act 1948, have exercised close observation of the effect of the sewage effluent from the Council's Sewage Works on the purity of the River Yeo.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	21
No. of defects found	Nil
No. of notices served	Nil
No. of notices complied with	Nil

In December, the Dorset County Council delegated to the Urban District Council its functions under Section 38(3)(4) and (5) of the Shops Act 1950.

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	No. of premises on register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	10	20	2
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	50	60	12
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	2	6	Nil
Total -	62	86	14

	No. of cases in which defects were- Found.	Remedied.	Referred by H.M. Inspector.
Sanitary Conveniences - Unsuitable or defective	3	3	2

No. of outworkers = 32

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Observations were carried out during the year and informal action taken on one occasion.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district, available for use by the public during part of the year. When used by the public the bath is under the control of the local authority, when the water is chlorinated.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination and residual chlorine estimation all proved satisfactory.

10. MOVABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

No. of movable dwellings licensed during year	8
No. of camping sites licensed in the district	I

No further progress has been made toward the provision of a suitable camping site in the district which is required to provide for the temporary requirements of campers passing through the district or for those persons who, under the present difficult housing conditions, are having to dwell in caravans over long periods of time.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

In one instance premises found to be flea infested were dealt with during the year. The method of disinfestation used being D.D.T. dust.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities now cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District.

13. RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No. of registered premises	Nil
No. of licensed premises	Nil
No. of inspections carried out	Nil

14. SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

By agreement with the County Council the Council carried out drain tests at schools and canteens controlled by the Dorset County Council in the district. Several defects were found and notified to the appropriate authority and the conditions remain under observation.

15. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951 - Section 47.

Formal action under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act of 1951 had to be taken for the urgent removal of an aged person living under filthy and insanitary conditions to an Institution.

16. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of houses inspected during the year	190
No. of inspections made	196
No. of informal notices served	3
No. of informal notices complied with	3
No. of statutory notices served	Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	Nil
Action taken by the local authority in respect to such houses -	
(a) Demolition Orders made	Nil
(b) Undertakings accepted for -	
(i) Closure	Nil
(ii) Reconditioning	Nil

Overcrowding.

No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to Local Authority	11
No. of cases of overcrowding abated	8
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Total Number of houses in the district 1,984

Requisitioned Premises etc.

Seven houses were held under requisision at the end of the year. Eleven houses, on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made, were being occupied under licence at the end of the year.

Provision of new houses and re-housing. (Figures in parenthesis refer to previous year).

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

	Temporary Prefab.	Traditional Type.
During 1952	Nil	22(38)
Post-war	40(40)	153(131)

Total number of families re-housed during 1952 34(46)

By private enterprise 6(9) new houses were built, and by conversion 1(2) additional unit of accommodation was provided.

Housing Acts 1949 & 1952 - Improvement Grants.

No application for an Improvement Grant under this Act was received during the year.

During the year 26 recommendations for the granting of additional points on medical grounds in connection with their application for a Council house, were made by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the conditions under which 30 applicants were living, following inspections carried out by him.

At the end of the year there were 262 applicants for Council houses, of which 185 were resident within the district. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 271 of which 205 were resident within the district.

Comments.

It will be seen from the above figures that the provision of new houses by the Council was continued during the year with a corresponding reduction in the number of applicants on the Council's waiting list.

It will also be seen that the number of housing inspections have materially increased over preceding years. This was a result of a survey of general housing conditions instituted during the year, the results of which are not yet available, but it is to be anticipated that such a survey will reveal much property in the town which is sub-standard and which will require to be dealt with under the housing Acts to make it fit to be lived in.

ALLOCATION OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

The allocation of Council houses where demand is materially in excess of supply is an unenviable task and rarely can all applicants feel satisfied with the method adopted.

No better method can be used for the allocation of houses in an urban area, in my opinion, than by a points scheme as already used in Sherborne.

The points scheme strictly adhered to ensures a fair allocation within the limits of such a scheme, but any

points scheme has its limitations and, unless the weighting of points is carefully balanced, the housing needs of some applicants may not be truly represented under the scheme.

As far as the scheme adopted by your Council is concerned, I consider the housing needs of all applicants are fairly represented with the exception of those applicants whose rehousing is necessary on purely medical grounds. Those, I feel, do not get an equal chance with others whose need is not always so great.

With these reservations, I am satisfied that under your points scheme those applicants with the greatest housing need are allocated your houses.

17. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies)Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' registered on the 1st October 1949 by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949	3
No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949	1
No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949	4
No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949	4

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

Tuberculin Tested Accredited	26
Pasteurised	330
Ungraded	7

No. of samples of milk subjected to a guinea pig innoculation test for Tuberculosis 3

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938		26
No. being -	restaurant kitchens	6
	hotel kitchens	15
	food factories	5
No. inspected being -	restaurant kitchens	2
	hotel kitchens	Nil
	food factories	5
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1936		29

No. of such premises registered in respect to -
(a) Ice-cream 27
(b) Sausages & prepared meats 2
No. of premises inspected during the year 21

No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test 103

Results;- Grade 1 - 78
" 2 - 21
" 3 - 4
" 4 - 0

Food Inspection.

(a) Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse Sherborne. Work has now been completed on the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in South Street, and the conditions there have now been brought up to a satisfactory standard. The Cheap Street Slaughterhouse is now no longer in use.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	2662	811	3679	279
Number inspected	2662	811	3679	279
All diseases except tuberculosis				
Whole carcases condemned	13	10	3	10
Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	735	8	398	33
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	28.1	2.1	11.2	15.4
Tuberculosis only.				
Whole carcase condemned	20	1	-	8
Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	759	-	-	53
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	29.0	12.0	-	22.0

Number of cases of Cysticercus Bovis.

Number of suspected cases - 15
Number of confirmed cases - 15
Percentage of number inspected affected with cysticercus bovis - 0.056

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number of animals slaughtered as casualties during year	95	32	14	192
Percentage of number slaughtered which were admitted as casualties	3.6	3.9	0.4	68.5

(b) Butchers and other shops.

Quantities condemned -	Bacon and Ham	99 lbs.
	Lard	17 lbs.
	Fish	182 lbs.
Other foods condemned-	Meat	120 tins.
	Assorted foods	292 tins.

18. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out	Nil
No. of disinfections carried out	5

19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	342
Total No. of informal notices served	6
Total No. of informal notices complied with	6
Total No. of statutory notices served	Nil
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
No. of prosecutions	Nil

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Incidence -

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.
Whooping Cough	53
Scarlet Fever	1
Lobar Pneumonia	1
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1

As will be seen there was no high incidence of serious infectious disease. 53 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year as compared with 12 during the preceding year.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases.		Deaths.	
Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
5	-	1	-

Five new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year compared with 10 in the previous year.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

PROTECTIVE INNOCULATION.

The value of protective innoculation against Diphtheria has proved itself to such an extent that, except in the largest centres of population, Diphtheria is now virtually unknown. This satisfactory position can only be maintained providing at least 75% of the babies born are immunised against Diphtheria. Whilst the response to immunisation in the district is good, this may not continue to be the case because a generation of parents to whom Diphtheria is only a name cannot be expected to respond to appeals to have their children immunised as parents did ten years ago.

Increasing demands come from parents, fully aware of the distress and suffering occasioned by an attack of Whooping Cough, for their offspring to have protective innoculation against this disease.

It is suggested that the results so far achieved in connection with the protection of children against the worst effects of Whooping Cough by prophylactic innoculation justifies immunisation against this disease being adopted to the same extent as that against Diphtheria.

If immunisation against Whooping Cough was combined with immunisation against Diphtheria (which has been shown to be possible) then it is suggested that not only will the benefits be obtained in respect to Whooping Cough, but also that the level of immunisations against Diphtheria would be maintained at a higher level than can otherwise reasonably be expected.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.